

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 14-17 are pending in this application. Claim 13 has been canceled, without prejudice. As noted on page 3 of the Office Action, non-elected claims 18-31 were canceled, without prejudice, via a prior Examiner's Amendment. Claims 8, 10, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2002/00024117, now U.S. Patent No. 6,774,489 ("Russell"). Claims 9 and 13-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Office Action indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

These rejections are respectfully traversed, in part, for reasons that include the reasons set forth below. These issues were discussed during today's telephonic interview between the Examiner and Applicants' attorney. As agreed during today's interview, claim 8 has been amended to include the recitations of canceled claim 13. Accordingly, all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 14 Through 16 Are Allowable As Dependent from Claim 1

As discussed during today's interview, claims 14-16 depend from allowed claim 1, not rejected claim 8. Therefore, claims 14-16 are allowable because they depend from allowed claim 1.

Claim 8 Is Now Allowable Because It Recites the Limitations of Claim 13

Claims 13 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 8). However, the Office Action indicated that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants' attorney has amended claim 8 to include the recitations of canceled claim 13. Therefore, as discussed during today's interview, claim 8 is allowable for the reasons stated in the Office Action.

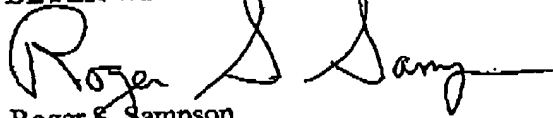
Claims 9 Through 12 Are Allowable As Dependent from Claim 8

Independent claim 8 is now allowable. Therefore, claims 9-12 are allowable as dependent from claim 8.

Conclusion

All pending claims are now allowable. Therefore, a notification that the application is in condition for allowance is earnestly solicited. Please telephone Applicants' attorney if the Examiner believes that there are any issues requiring further discussion or clarification. If any fees are due in connection with the filing this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 500388 (Order No. NOVLP078).

Respectfully submitted,
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